



RURAL ENVIRONMENT OF ASSAM AND PEOPLE'S ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOUR

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ABSTRACT

Conservation of environment for sustainable development largely depends upon the environmental behaviour of human being. Environmental behaviour or environment related behaviour refers to that kind of symbiosis behaviour in which human being impacts upon environment by several interacting actions, concerns, attitudes, abilities, awareness, etc. Present paper is an effort to find out the environment related behaviour of rural people of Assam with the following objectives-

1. To assess the environment related behaviour of rural people
2. To study is there any significant difference between male and female in case of their environment related behaviour
3. To study is there any significant difference between service holder and non-service holder in case of their environment related behaviour

For achieving the objectives two null hypotheses have been formulated:

1. There is no significant difference between male and female in case of their environment related behavior.
2. There is no significant difference between service holder and non-service holder in case of their environment related behaviour

Present study has been carried out through Descriptive survey method with total 100 rural people as sample, comprises of 50 male and 50 female selected randomly. For analysis and interpretation of data, simple % and t test have been used.

KEY WORDS: Rural people, Environment related behaviour, Assam.

Introduction

The environment related behaviour has been considered as the ultimate objective of environmental education. Environmental behaviour or environment related behaviour refers to that kind of symbiosis behaviour in which human being impacts upon environment by several interacting actions, concerns, attitudes, abilities and awareness. It refers to the observable and reported behaviour of the individuals, either done or willingness to do in future, regarding the conservation of environment. Conservation of soil, water, energy, air, forest, wild life and human health, everything depends upon the environment-related behaviour. That is why, at present much more emphasis has been given throughout the globe for developing eco-friendly behaviour in every human being. In the present paper an attempt has been undertaken to study the environmental behaviour of rural people including cleanliness, plantation activity, rain water harvesting, concern over the use of plastic, population explosion and reuse of resources, etc. as essential content areas for conservation of environment.

Statement of the problem

Present problem has been stated as "Rural Environment of Assam and People's Environmental Behaviour."

Significance of the Study

For the last two decades, there has been a growing concern over the environmental issues in every nation. The future life expectation of people of any country is determined by the nature and type of the environment in which they live. It will be inevitable for everyone to face the fact it would not be an easy task to find a solution to the environmental problems. The protection of environment and prevention of pollution are the solemn responsibility of every citizen of every country. India is a country where live more than 40% of young population in the world. If this huge figure of young population can be sensitized for developing eco-friendly behaviour, then it will help a lot to save the earth. Environment related behaviour attempts to provide norms for better management of the environment for better life and personality development. It is expected that present study will sensitize the rural people for environmental protection and it will develop a good environmental manner among them. In the present study, it is supposed to be necessary to highlight the term behaviour as any active responsiveness to current environmental issues, believed to be helpful for conserving all natural resources by developing proper attitude towards environment.

The exposure to various social pressures is different for male and female in our rural society. So gender is considered as a variable. Secondly, occupational status determines mindset, attitude of human being. So, it was also considered as important variable in the present study.

So, there is a great interest of the investigators to take the matter seriously and problem has been selected as "Rural Environment of Assam and People's Environmental Behaviour."

The Operational Definition of Terms

Environmental behaviour: Environmental behaviour or environment related behaviour refers to that kind of symbiosis behaviour in which human being impacts upon environment by several interacting actions, concerns, attitudes, abilities, awareness, etc. The Environment related behaviour is the product of the interaction of reality and cultural values.

Objectives of the Study

Present study has been carried out on the basis of the following objectives-

1. To assess the environment related behaviour of rural people.
2. To study is there any significant difference between male and female in case of their environment related behaviour.
3. To study is there any significant difference between service holder and non-service holder in case of their environment related behaviour.

Hypotheses of the Study

Null hypotheses formulated for the present study are-

1. There is no significant difference between male and female in case of their environment related behaviour.
2. There is no significant difference between service holder and non-service holder in case of their environment related behaviour.

Delimitation of the Study

The study has been delimited to the adult male and female only. Students, children and retired people are not included in the in the present study.

Review of Related Literature

Following studies have been reviewed within a short period of time by the investigators:

1. Shobeiri, S.M, Omidver and N.N Prahallada (2007) collectively carried out a study on Comparative Study of Environmental Awareness among Secondary School Students in Iran and India. The hypotheses of the study were - There will be no significant difference in the level of environmental aware-

ness among secondary school students and There will be no significant difference between boy and girl students in their level of environmental awareness.

2. Sengupta M. , Das J. and Maji, K. P. (2010) carried out a critical study on Environmental Awareness and Environment Related Behaviour of Twelfth Grade Students in Kolkata: Effects of Stream and Gender. The main objectives of the study were to study the level of environmental awareness and environment related behaviour of twelfth grade students in Kolkata and to study is there any significant effect of stream and gender on these students' environmental awareness and environment related behaviour.
3. Astalin, P. K. (2011) did a study on Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary Students and Educational Factors affecting it. Research hypotheses of the study were:
 - a. There is no significant difference between art and science students in their environmental awareness.
 - b. There is no significant between male and female students in their environmental awareness. In this study Descriptive survey method had been used as a method study.
4. Kant, S. and Sharma , V. (2013) conducted a study on Environmental Awareness of Secondary Students with Reference to their Intelligence. The main objectives of the study were:
 - a. To study the difference, if any, between Environmental awareness of urban and rural secondary students.
 - b. To study the difference, if any, between Environmental awareness of boys and girls of secondary school.
5. Sivamoorthy, M., Nalini R. and Kumar, S. C. (2013) carried out a critical study on Environmental Awareness and Practices among college students with the objectives of to measure the environmental awareness level among the college students and to study the general environment practices among the college students.
6. Ghosh K. (2014) carried a study on Environmental Awareness among Secondary Students of Golaghat in the State of Assam and Their Attitude towards Environmental Education. In this study the researcher had used (a) Environmental awareness scale (b) Environmental attitude scale (c) Socio-economic scale.
7. Geetha G. (2014) conducted a study on the Environmental Awareness among Secondary Students in a District of Kerala State. The main objectives of the study were;
 - a. To study the levels of environmental awareness of secondary school students in Kerala.
 - b. To study environmental awareness of male and female students in Kerala.

Methodology of the study

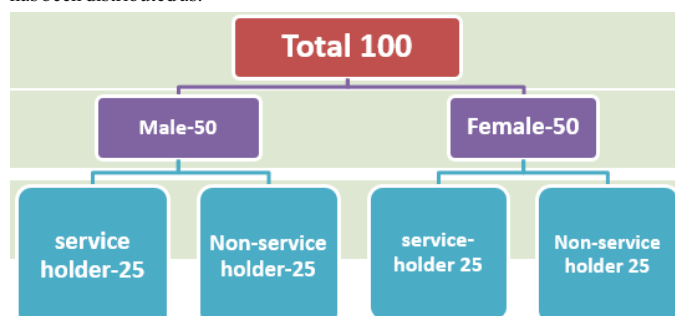
Method Used:

According to the objectives of the study, the researchers have adopted the Descriptive Survey Method. Descriptive survey method is always related to present situation.

Population, Sample and Sampling Procedure

In this study all rural people in the selected area of Bajali sub-division are the population

Sample of the study has been selected through random sampling procedure and it has been distributed as:



Variables of the study

The researchers have selected the following variables:

1. Occupation
2. Gender

Research Tool or Instrument used for data collection and Its Description

In this study the researchers have used self prepared questionnaire for collecting data. The questionnaire contains 15 questions which are categorized into five categories -strongly agree for 5 point, agree for 4 point, no comment for 3, disagree for 2 and strongly disagree for 1 point where the respondent states their opinions. In order to have content validity, the questionnaire was given to four experts before administration.

Statistical Treatment of Data

In this study, Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test have been employed for analysis of data.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Table No. 1 for Objective No.1

Table showing the Mean score of environment related behaviour of rural people

Sl. No.	Summary of the statements	Mean of Male Responses (Maximum Possible 50)	Mean of Female Responses (Maximum Possible 50)
1	Starting duty with cleaning the campus.	48	47.2
2	Concern over Daily use of plastic products.	43.5	41.6
3	Harvesting rain water in rural life	38	37
4	Plantation and gardening as favorite duty in life.	34	38
5	Prohibiting Plastic bags for carrying goods from market.	36.4	37
6	No Compromise on sanitary aspect.	37.8	36.5
7	Use of pollution free vehicles.	39.4	44.5
8	Wastage from vegetables to animal.	42.5	39.5
9	Restriction on Use of fertilizer and pesticides in kitchen garden	28.5	36
10	Throw of garbage to dustbin.	37.5	40
11	No experience of Killing living animal in life.	42	41.2
12	Think over the aspect of reusing of natural resource.	46.2	40
13	Concern over population explosion as a factor of environmental degradation.	36.2	42
14	Put out the light and fan when coming out the room for power saving purpose.	36.8	36
15	No wastage of water at any cost.	42	38

Testing Hypothesis: 1 (Ho.1) for Objective 2.

There is no significant difference between male and female in case of their environment related behaviour.

Table No.2.

Showing the significance of Mean difference between the male and female in their environmental related behaviour

Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Level of significance
Male	50	58.68	3.61	1.90	Not significant at 0.05 level
Female	50	57.92	3.59		

The above table shows that the obtained t-value 1.90 is smaller than the table of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. This indicates that there exists no significant difference between the male and female regarding environment related behaviour. Hence, the hypothesis is accepted and concluded as there is no significant difference between male and female in case of their environment related behaviour.

Testing Hypothesis : 2 (Ho2)

There is no significant difference between service holder and non-service holder in case of their environment related behaviour.

Table no.3

Significance of Mean difference between the service holder and non-service holder in their environmental related behaviour

Occupation	N	Mean	S. D	t-value	Level of significance
Service holder	50	61.24	4.28	2.05	Significant at 0.05 level
Non service holder	50	57.30	3.85		

The above table shows that the obtained t-value 2.05 is greater than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. This indicates that there exists a significant difference between service holder and non-service holder regarding environment related behaviour. The mean score of service holder (61.24) is greater than the mean score of non-service holder (57.30). It is inferred that service holder have higher awareness regarding the environment related behaviour. Hence, the hypothesis is rejected and concluded as there is a significant difference between service holder and non-service holder in case of their environment related behaviour.

Table No. 4

Significance of Mean difference between the female service holder and female non-service holder in their environmental related behaviour

Occupation	N	Mean	S. D	t-value	Level of significance
Service holder (female)	25	59.56	8.85	1.98	Significant at 0.05 level
Non service holder (female)	25	56.95	7.78		

The above table shows that the obtained t-value 1.98 is greater than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. This indicates that there exists a significant difference between female service holder and female non-service holder regarding environment related behaviour. The mean score of female service holder (59.56) is greater than the mean score of female non-service holder (56.95). It is inferred that female service holders have shown higher behaviour regarding the environment than the female non-service holder.

Table No. 5

Significance of Mean difference between the male service holder and male non-service holder in their environmental related behaviour

Occupation	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Level of significance
Service holder(male)	25	62.92	9.60	2.05	Significant at 0.05 level
Non-service holder(male)	25	57.64	8.72		

The above table shows that the obtained t-value 2.05 is greater than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. This indicates that there exists a significant difference between male service holder and male non-service holder regarding environment related behaviour. The mean score of male service holder (62.92) is greater than the mean score of male non-service holder (57.64). It is inferred that male service holder have shown higher environment related behaviour than male non-service holder.

Findings of the Study

After analysis and interpretation of data, following points are presented as findings of the study-

1. All the respondents have shown good manner with their environment which is revealed from their high mean score against every statement as the maximum possible mean score of every statement is 50.
2. People are very much concerned over the use of plastic materials as the male mean stands for 43.5 and female mean stands for 41.6.
3. In case of using fertilizer and pesticides that is in item no. 9 only, respondents have shown poor environmental behaviour (Male Mean-28.5 and Female Mean 36).
4. Almost all people start their day with cleaning their own campus as mean was found 48 and 47.5 respectively for male and female.
5. There is no significant Mean difference between male and female in case of their environment related behaviour.
6. The mean score of service holder (61.24) is greater than the mean score of non-service holder (57.30) and this difference was found to be significant as calculated t- value 2.05 is greater than table value 1.96 at 5% level of significance.
7. The mean score of female service holder (59.56) is greater than the mean score of female non-service holder (56.95). It is inferred that female service holders have shown higher behaviour regarding the environment than the female non-service holder.
8. The mean score of male service holder (62.92) is greater than the mean score of male non-service holder (57.64). It is inferred that male service holder have shown higher environment related behaviour than male non-service holder.
9. It is inferred from the study that occupation has a positive effect on improv-

ing environment related behaviour among the rural population.

Conclusion

The research was based on data collected by personal interview with adult population of rural area. So it has a positive impact upon the rural community to develop environmental behaviour among them. To arrest the problem degradation of environment, involvement of every citizen including student is necessary. It is also suggested that fully fledged qualitative research in the context of environment education will yield more in depth information and such researches should be undertaken. So, it has great implication in the society.

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